

Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CSCE, CVIS

SUBJECT: SECVISIT - POSSIBLE PRESS QUESTIONS ON
MCCLELLAN CASE

FOR SONNENFELDT, HARTMAN AND FUNSETH

REF: MOSCOW 775

1. REFTTEL REPORTED THAT MOSCOW PRESS CORPS WILL QUERY
SPOKESMAN ABOUT SECRETARY'S PAST AND FUTURE INVOLVEMENT
IN UNRESOLVED SOVIET EXIT VISA CASE OF IRINA MCCLELLAN,
WIFE OF UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA PROFESSOR WOODFORD
MCCLELLAN. SOVIET REFUSAL TO LET HER EMIGRATE OR HIM
VISIT HER HAS BEEN WIDELY PUBLICIZED IN US PRESS, AND
SUBJECT OF CONTINUING INTEREST OF VARIOUS MEMBERS OF
CONGRESS, PARTICULARLY SENATOR HARRY BYRD AND REPRESENTA-
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TIVE J. KENNETH ROBINSON. SECRETARY HAS MENTIONED CASE

TO SOVIETS AT LEAST AT DOBRYNIN LEVEL, AND HIS PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT HAS BEEN PUBLICIZED BY MCCLELLAN AND BY BYRD'S OFFICE.

2. SUBJECT TO YOUR CONCURRENCE, DEPARTMENT'S PRESS GUIDANCE ON CASE FOLLOWS:

3. Q: HAS THE SECRETARY PERSONALLY RAISED IRINA MCCLELLAN'S CASE IN THE PAST, AND DOES HE INTEND TO DO SO DURING THIS VISIT?

4. A: OUR EMBASSY IN MOSCOW HAS RAISED THE MCCLELLAN CASE A NUMBER OF TIMES, AND THE SECRETARY PERSONALLY COMMUNICATED HIS CONCERN ABOUT THE CASE TO THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT. IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE TO START ENUMERATING NOW THE SPECIFIC MATTERS THE SECRETARY PLANS TO BRING UP ON THIS TRIP, BUT ON BACKGROUND I CAN TELL YOU THE SECRETARY PLANS TO REAFFIRM TO THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT HIS CONTINUING INTEREST IN THE LIST OF FAMILY REUNIFICATION CASES WHICH AMBASSADOR STOESSEL PRESENTED TO THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT ON AUGUST 18. THE MCCLELLAN CASE IS ONE OF THOSE CASES.

5. Q: ISN'T THE SOVIET REFUSAL TO REUNITE THE MCCLELLANS A VIOLATION OF THE CSCE?

6. A: IN OUR VIEW THIS CASE FALLS WITHIN THE FAMILY REUNIFICATION UNDERTAKINGS OF THE CSCE, AND WE BELIEVE THAT IT SHOULD BE HANDLED ACCORDINGLY. SISCO

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